

OSA 1986-62

1 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Research)

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SUBJECT : Recommendation Regarding []

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REFERENCE : Attached Draft by [] Deputy Chief, []
Dated 26 October 1962; No Subject

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1. [] and I attended another [] meeting in the office of Mr. Tom Karamessines, 29 October, to discuss the referenced draft, which I have attached. You may recall that we had an earlier meeting attempting to sort out our relationships with DD/P on [] several weeks ago before Cuba became our preoccupation. AD/OEL, Deputy Chief, [] as well as [] Chief of the [] among others were also present, as was []

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2. After lengthy discussion, I reached the conclusion that our present attempts to work out a modus vivendi with DD/P regarding operation of [] command lines and the locus of responsibility for support were doomed to failure if we persisted in attempting to share these functions along present lines. At the moment DD/P is stronger than ever for retaining command and management control of the Project with them. You will note evidences of this in paragraphs 2, 4, and 5 of the attached draft.

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3. I do not feel that it is any longer profitable for us to argue the question of who should have operational control of [] in Headquarters; I have always held that wherever this important function was located, it should be in one place only. What I do object to with considerable vigor is the last sentence of paragraph 2, which lays upon us the responsibility for "costing and logistic support of the aircraft platforms; and . . . designing and obtaining the optimum weapons systems for [] purposes." We do not have within our presently constituted OSA structure sufficiently trained personnel to provide logistic support to the present aircraft used in the []

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OSA 1986-62

Page 2

25X1A

program. The personnel who were knowledgeable of this vehicle and its maintenance have all been transferred to the [redacted] In addition, I maintain that you cannot have one group of people operating equipment in the field at sortie rates and under maintenance conditions which are not known to the element in Headquarters technically responsible for provision of the aircraft systems. Budgeting, I submit under this system of split responsibility, would be nothing less than a nightmare.

4. I would suggest that we turn all of the operations and support over to DD/P, retaining for ourselves as DD/R only that portion which is related to OEL's functions. This would force them to accept the maintenance and support responsibility for the aircraft system and would also lay upon them the necessity for budgeting annually for the continued maintenance of the present aircraft, not to mention the replacement vehicle in FY 1964. I believe that the D/NRO can turn these portions of the operating money over to DD/P as executive agent in the [redacted] program much as they would have done it for us. I continue to be concerned about the other uses to which the [redacted] aircraft may be put in the [redacted] field, and I am not certain exactly how much information about these more limited clandestine services needs to be made known to the NRO staff as a function to our relationship with that body on [redacted] I submit that we should turn the entire package connected with operations over to DD/P to include the costing and logistics support of the weapons system. We in OSA would still be responsible for contracting for any new black boxes or modifications thereunto as ordered by AD/OEL, but we would avoid the necessity of attempting to budget for and support logistically a program which in reality was managed and operated by another Agency component. Were OSA to subtract itself from the equation as I have suggested, this would not interfere with [redacted] plan to furnish to DD/P those technical personnel necessary to operate the [redacted] systems in the field. We would still retain the advisory position on [redacted] as noted in paragraph 3. of the draft, but OSA would be removed from the picture as far as intelligence, liaison support, and furnishing personnel are concerned. I would appreciate your reactions to this suggestion so that I might discuss them further with [redacted] I would especially be interested in your view as to how far the D/NRO needs to become involved in what is essentially an intra-Agency problem.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

cc: AD/OEL

Attachment

[redacted] Draft

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